THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The nuclear propelled submarine, INS CHAKRA, had been obtained by the Indian Navy from the Soviet Union in January 1988 on a three year lease for training purposes. This submarine, having fulfilled her objectives, has been returned to the Soviet Navy on the 5th of January, 1991 on expiry of her lease. It was not considered necessary to extend the lease further.

(c) and (d) The acquisition of any class of weapon platforms for the Indian Navy, whether through import or indigenous construction, is decided after carefully considering various factors such as the geo-political and strategic developments in the region, particularly with respect to the acquisition of sophisticated arms by countries in the neighbourhood, availability of resources, etc.

Study on women workers

324. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made by Government on the:

(i) women workers employed in the public and organised sectors in the country;

(ii) the deficiency in the required percentage to the total work force;

(iii) the discrimination to women workers if any, in the matter of wages, employment opportunities and service conditions;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what steps are being contemplated by Government in this regard; and

(d) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative whether Government propose to make such a study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) Under the Employment Market Information Programme of the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour, data are collected on total employment and women employment in the organised sector (both in public and private sectors). According to this, the percentage of women to the total employment has shown increasing trend over the years.

Under the scheme titled "Survey of Socio-Economic Conditions of Women Workers in Industry", surveys have been undertaken from time to time to study the working and other conditions of women workers in the organised segment of industry, viz., mines plantations and factories covered under the respective Acts.

(c) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for equal remuneration to men and women for the same work or work of a similar nature and for prevention of discrimination aaginst women not only in recruitment, but also in relation to conditions of service subsequent to employment. The Equal Remuneration Act was also amended to allow selected voluntary organisations to file complaints of violations of the Act. Various labour laws, such as, the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, etc. contain provisions in regard to the welfare and protection of women labour. In a majority of cases, State Governments and Union Territories are the appropriate Government for enforcement of these labour laws. The Central Government has been urging the State Governments and Union Territories for effective implementation of labour pertaining to women. A scheme on a pilot basis has been launched in some States for strengthening the enforcement machinery pertaining to legal

provisions for women and child labour. Central Government also gives assistance to voluntary organisations for organising women labour to enable them to secure their rightful demands.

(d) Does not arise.

Media coverage of Gulf War

325. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coveage of the Gulf war contains more of Western propaganda while the Indian media had failed totally in providing a correct picture of the war scenario and not a single reporter was present on the spot war front;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, what are the findings of the enquiry report;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there is large scale criticism from the public on projection of Gulf War in the Indian media; and

(f) what steps Government propose to take to give up-to-date projection of war developments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) The Media has been providing the latest and uptodate information about various aspects of the gulf war. Doordarshan and AIR have been providing in their news programmes, latest information on the gulf war provided by news organisations. Media persons who had been in that area have provided news/comments for news programmes.

Spurt in militant activties in Kashmir

326. SHRI GUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned 'Spurt in Kashmir militant activities' that appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 6-2-1991;

(b) if so, whether the militant activities in the valley have suddenly increased;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) how many citizens and security personnel have died so far in the Valley during the last six months;

(e) whether it is also a fact that rocket and grenade attacks and bomb explosions have become very common in the valley; and

(f) what steps Government have taken or propose to take effectively control or defuse the activities of militants in the Valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The number of incidents and killings in January, 1991 were higher than those in December, 1990. The law and order situation continues to be difficult in J&K because of the presence of large number of militants with sophisticated arms ammunition and continued support from across the border. The militants have also used rockets, grenades and bombs in certain incidents. During the last 6 months over 100 security forces personnels and over 200 others were killed by militants in the Valley.

To contain the terrorists aetivities stringent administrative measures have been taken.